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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Thorsten Laux  
Assignee: Sun Microsystems, Inc.  
Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD INCLUDING A MERGING DRIVER FOR  
ACCESSING MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES  
Serial No.: 09/738,464 Filed: December 13, 2000  
Examiner: Group Art 2171  
Unit:  
Docket No.: P-4589

Monterey, CA  
March 21, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION TO COMMISSIONER TO ACCORD APPLICATION THE FILING  
DATE AS THE DATE OF DEPOSIT SHOWN ON THE EXPRESS MAIL FILING  
RECEIPT

Dear Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner to grant the above  
application a filing date of December 13, 2000 under 37 C.F.R.  
§1.10(c).

On December 13, 2000, Applicant filed by the Express Mail  
Post Office to Addressee service of the United States Postal  
Service the above patent application. The new patent  
application transmittal letter and the first page of the  
application itself included an Express Mail Label Number.  
Applicant received the enclosed copy to the filing receipt,  
which incorrectly accords a filing date of December 15, 2000.

04/06/2001 HUONG1

0000042 09738464

01 FC:122

130.00 OP

GUNNISON McKAY &  
HODGSON, L.L.P.  
Garden West Office Plaza  
Suite 220  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 655-0880  
FAX (831) 655-0888

Enclosed as Exhibit A is a true copy of "New Patent Application Transmittal Letter" as filed by Express Mail on December 13, 2000. In the top right hand corner of the first page is an Express Mail Label No. of "EL579666905US." The transmittal letter identifies each paper included with the letter and breaks down the parts of the enclosed application. Thus, the application was effectively included under the Express Mail Label.

Nevertheless, enclosed as Exhibit B is a true copy of the first page of the above application as filed by Express Mail on December 13, 2000. In the top right hand corner on the first page is an Express Mail Label No. of "EL579666905US."

Thus, Exhibits A and B demonstrate "The number of the 'Express Mail' mailing label was places on the paper(s) . . . that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by 'Express Mail'." 37 C.F.R. §1.10 (c)(2).

Enclosed as Exhibit C is a true copy of the Post Office To Addressee Express Mail Label. The label clearly shows the "Date In" as "12 13 00." In addition, the postal clerk date stamped the Label with "Dec 13 2000." Thus, Applicant has complied with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 (c)(3).

This paper is being filed promptly after Applicant's attorney became aware of the incorrect filing date. Thus, Applicant has also complied with 37 C.F.R. §1.10 (c)(1).

The enclosed true copies demonstrate that Applicant complied with all the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.10 and so should the above application should be according a filing date of December 13, 2000.

Applicant's attorney hereby certifies that each of Exhibits A to C are true copies of the papers in the file of Applicant's attorney. Applicant again respectfully petitions that the filing date of December 13, 2000 be granted for the above application and that a corrected filing receipt be issued.

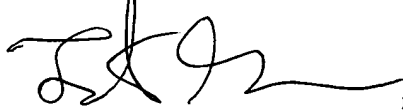
Enclosed is a check payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks for \$130.00, which is the fee for a petition

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h). However, the incorrect filing date was a PTO error, and so Applicant respectfully submits that no fee should be owing for either this petition or the corrected filing receipt.

☒ Conditional Petition for Extension of Time: If an extension of time is required for timely filing of the enclosed documents after all papers filed with this transmittal have been considered, Applicants hereby petition for such an extension of time.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required for consideration of the enclosed documents, and to credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0553.


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 21, 2001.



Attorney for Applicant(s)

March 21, 2001  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Forrest Gunnison  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 32,899  
(831) 655-0880



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/738,464	12/15/2000	2171	790	P-4589	8	17	4

CONFIRMATION NO. 9684

## FILING RECEIPT



\*OC000000005800717\*

Forrest Gunnison  
Gunnison, McKay & Hodgson, L.L.P.  
Suite 220  
1900 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940

SHOULD BE

12/13/2000

Date Mailed: 02/26/2001

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the PTO processes the reply to the Notice, the PTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

## Applicant(s)

Thorsten Laux, Hamburg, GERMANY;

## Assignment For Published Patent Application

Sun Microsystems, Inc.,;

## Continuing Data as Claimed by Applicant

## Foreign Applications

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 99124939.2 12/14/1999

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 02/22/2001

Projected Publication Date: 06/14/2001

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title



EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:  
EL579666905US

GUNNISON, MCKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.  
GARDEN WEST OFFICE PLAZA, SUITE 220  
1900 GARDEN ROAD  
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(831) 655-0880  
FACSIMILE (831) 655-0888

RECEIVED  
APR 10 2001  
Technology Center 2100

December 13, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: P-4589

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER  
(37 C.F.R. §1.53(b))

Transmitted herewith for filing is an original (nonprovisional) patent application of:

**Inventor(s):** Thorsten Laux

**Entitled:** A System and Method Including a Merging Driver  
for Accessing Multiple Data Sources

Enclosed are the following papers as required for a filing date under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b):

\_\_\_\_ Sheets Microfiche Appendix;  
\_\_\_\_ 16 Pages Description;  
\_\_\_\_ 4 Pages Claims;  
\_\_\_\_ 1 Page Abstract; and  
\_\_\_\_ 8 Drawing Sheets (Informal).

Other papers enclosed include:

\_\_\_\_ X Return Receipt Postcard;  
\_\_\_\_ X Check for \$830.00 ;  
\_\_\_\_ 2 Pages of Combined Declaration For Patent  
Application and Power of Attorney;

Exhibit A 1/2

New Patent Application Transmittal Letter  
 Attorney Docket No. P-4589  
 December 13, 2000  
 Page 2

**COPY**

Pages of Statement Claiming Small Entity  
 Status (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b) -- Small  
 Business Concern);

X Recordation Form Cover Sheet; and

1 Page of Assignment of the invention to Sun  
 Microsystems, Inc.

Fee Calculation					
Claims	Number Filed	Basic Fee Allowance	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
					\$ 710.00
Total No. of Claims	17	- 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$ 0.00
No. Independent Claims	4	- 3 =	1	X \$80.00	\$ 80.00
Multiple Dependent Claims				\$270.00	0.00
Total of above Calculation					\$ 790.00
Reduction by 50% for filing by Small Entity (Enter 0.5 for small entity)					1.0
Filing Fee					\$ 790.00

**FEE PAYMENT**

Enclosed are:

Filing Fee	\$ 790.00
Assignment Recording Fee	40.00
<b>Total Fees Enclosed</b>	<b>\$ 830.00</b>

A check in the amount of \$830.00 is enclosed

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional  
 fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to  
 Deposit Account No. 50-0553.

Respectfully submitted,



Forrest Gunnison  
 Attorney for Applicant(s)  
 Reg. No. 32,899

Exhibit A

2/2



EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:  
EL579666905US

A SYSTEM AND METHOD INCLUDING A MERGING DRIVER FOR  
ACCESSING MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES

5

Thorsten Laux

COPY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the access of a database having multiple data sources, and more particularly, to the access of multiple data sources by a single query.

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Description of Related Art

There are known databases where the data to be accessed is distributed over multiple data sources, such as different directories, different servers, etc., and where the different data sources have different formats. In this case, in known systems, only one data source can be accessed by a single search or a query. To access multiple sources, the user has to dispatch multiple queries directed to the multiple sources.

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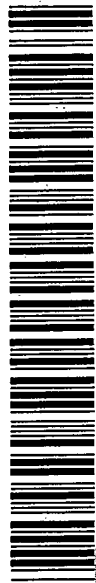
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for accessing a plurality of data sources by a single access operation or query. Each data source in the plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers. Each driver in the plurality of separate drivers uses an application programming interface (API). The API is substantially identical for each of the drivers in the plurality of separate drivers.

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**POST OFFICE  
TO ADDRESSEE**



\*EL579666905US\*

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Label 11-F July 1997

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ON INSURANCE COVERAGE

DEC 13 2000

ORIGIN (POSTAL USE ONLY)		Day of Delivery		Flat Rate Envelope	
PO Zip Code	93910	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Next	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Date In	12 13 00	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Noon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 PM	Postage	\$ 11.75
Mo.	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Day	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Day	Return Receipt Fee	
Day	13	<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l Alpha Country Code		COD Fee	
Time In	10:00 PM	Acceptance Clerk Initials		Insurance Fee	
<input type="checkbox"/> AM				Total Postage & Fees	\$ 11.75
Weight	8 ozs.				
<input type="checkbox"/> No Delivery					
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<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday					

CUSTOMER USE ONLY	
METHOD OF PAYMENT:	
Express Mail Corporate Acct. No.	
Federal Agency Acct. No. or Postal Service Acct. No.	
I wish delivery to be made without obtaining signature of addressee. (For use by addressee only. Signature of addressee required for proof of delivery.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO DELIVERY	<input type="checkbox"/> DELIVERY

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PHONE 031 055 0880		PHONE	
JUANISUN MCKAY & HODGSON, LLP		Assistant Commissioner	
1500 GARDEN RD STE 220		for Patents	
MONTREY		Box Patent Application	
		Washington DC 20231	
P-4589			

**PRESS HARD.**  
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Exhibit C